



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

Hot News!

McCollum Introduces Key Mississippi Trail Bill

Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN) has introduced the *Mississippi River Trail Study Act of 2002*. This bill amends the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System.

"Beginning the process of designating a national trail along the Mississippi River ensures that all Americans and future generations can appreciate, understand and enjoy this great waterway," said McCollum, a member of the House Resources Committee. **"This study is an important first step in providing national recognition on the importance of the Mississippi River to our quality of life. I'm proud to continue the work I started when I was in the Minnesota House of Representatives."** McCollum was a member of both the Minnesota House Natural Resources Committee and the Mississippi Parkway Commission.

The *Mississippi River Trail Study Act* directs public land managers to conduct the necessary study to determine the feasibility of designating a route along the Mississippi River as a national scenic trail, national historic trail or a combination of both. McCollum says this bill also requires that studies already underway be used to build upon current efforts to reconnect people to the river.

"Reconnecting people to the river will help remind us of our history and help direct our attention to protecting this natural resource for the future," said McCollum. **"It is time we look at making the Mississippi River a part of our National Trails System."**

The bill has received bipartisan sponsorship, and McCollum said she hopes to build even more support for this piece of legislation.

Betty's Key Votes This Week

Voted "No" on HR 1701- Consumer Rental Purchase Agreement Act. The bill passed the House by a vote of 215-201.

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Voted "Yes" on HRes 523- Recognizing the Contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The resolution passed the House by a vote of 413-0.

"Pic" of the Week



Congresswoman McCollum met with a group of Maplewood Residents who were in Washington to participate in the Relay for Life Celebration. Wilma and Rev. Robert Battle (left), Judy Lively, and Curt Stine discussed several issues with McCollum, including passage of the Eliminate Colorectal Cancer Act and increased funding for cancer awareness programs.

In Betty's Words

"The residents of Minnesota's Fourth District should not have to pay significantly more for the same medicine simply because it has a name brand attached to it. These are life saving medications we are dealing with, not designer jeans."

--Excerpt from a House floor statement regarding providing access to affordable generic prescription medication; September 19, 2002

Coming to the House Floor

HR 4600 - Medical Malpractice Reform Bill

HR 1646 - State Department Authorization Conference Report

Continuing Appropriations Resolution for Fiscal Year 2003

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